

Today's News - Thursday, May 8, 2008

- We lose a Modernist master of the human scale.
- Nadel on why it's not such a good idea for building commissioners (or the Architect of the Capitol) to be something other than professional architects or engineers.
- A call for British councilors to get some training before making planning decisions.
- Calatrava re: even more value engineering on WTC transit hub: "I believe that we have made the design better in many, many ways, through this exercise."
- AIA offers in-depth analysis 3 green building rating systems.
- Atkins chief: mistakes will be made in trying to achieve zero-carbon goals.
- Hawaii is the first to require solar water heat in new homes (some think it's a mistake).
- SEED: a tool for evaluating real estate development to advance social justice and community development.
- Boddy says it's a sad Cheyenne Autumn for affordable housing on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.
- L.A.'s Westwood Village hopeful for a shot in the arm.
- Toronto's Sony Centre condo tower: if the city "can pull off a folly like this, there will be no stopping it."
- Booming real estate industry in India has designs on foreign architects.
- Smith + Gill tapped for Masdar City's ultra-green HQ.
- Foster has big plans for Moscow's Pushkin Museum.
- The demise of Toronto's downtown parking lots (a good thing!).
- Interior design is not a ditzzy discipline.
- Winners all: Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards. - Architecture Association of Ireland Awards. - Canada's 2008 Governor-General's Medals in Architecture. - Webby Awards winning websites are some of our faves.

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[Obituary: Victor Christ-Janer, Modernist Architect, 92: ...style was sleek and contemporary, and he worked mostly in glass and concrete. He designed buildings on a human scale, without aspiring to monumentality. By Robin Pogrebin- New York Times](#)

[Security, High-Rise Buildings, and Ethics: Cracking the Building Code: Only NYC amended the City Building Code after 9/11 to reflect building performance...the buildings commissioner who led that effort resigned, and Mayor Bloomberg wants to remove the provision that her successor must be a licensed architect or professional engineer. - By Barbara A. Nadel, FAIA - Patricia Lancaster, FAIA- Buildings.com](#)

[Councillors need training to make planning decisions, says BPF: British Property Federation tells parliamentary group that local councillors lack formal training- Building \(UK\)](#)

[At Rail Hub, Bird Will Still Soar, but With a Bit Less Polish: They have not clipped the wings of the birdlike structure...the aesthetic centerpiece of the World Trade Center transportation hub...More substantial revisions may be needed if no contractor can be found to build the project for \\$2.5 billion - Santiago Calatrava; STV; DMJM Harris- New York Times](#)

[AIA Releases Study of Three Green Building Rating Systems: Green Globes, LEED NC 2.2, and SBT07...offers in-depth analysis of areas of strength for each, as well as areas for improvement...- American Institute of Architects \(AIA\)](#)

[Mistakes will be made in achieving zero carbon: Keith Clarke, Atkins chief: "When we look back in two years time we will realise half of the things we thought were going to be useful will turn out to have been mistakes"- Building \(UK\)](#)

[Solar water heat required in new Hawaii homes: State becomes first to do so; owners pay up front but save over time \(AP\)- MSNBC](#)

[Engineering utopia with architecture: "First LEED and Now SEED \(Social Economic Environmental Design Network\)"...a tool for evaluating real estate development projects that would have real value in advancing social justice and community development...- Tulsa Beacon](#)

[Condo towers on the march: This is Cheyenne Autumn for affordable housing on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside...a line in the sand has been set by community and heritage advocates. Stay tuned. By Trevor Boddy- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Seeking shoppers in Westwood Village: The UCLA-adjacent area is ringed by affluent neighborhoods but has struggled for 20 years. An economic shot in the arm may be on the way.- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Sony Centre Condo Tower: Why das boot will never get off the ground: Nobody who has ever seen a real estate boom go bust can fail to recognize the signs...The surrealism of the architecture is appropriate. But hey, I could still be wrong...if Toronto can pull off a folly like this, there will be no stopping it. - Daniel Libeskind- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Now, realty has designs for foreign architects: The booming real estate sector has attracted yet another important segment of the global industry - the architects. -- Foster + Partners; HOK; Forrec- The Economic Times \(India\)](#)

[Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture Tapped for Ultra-Green Abu Dhabi Project: ...Masdar Headquarters, a 1.6-million-square-foot, zero-waste, zero-carbon facility...will](#)

[be the heart of Masdar City, a 2.3-square-mile city masterplanned by Foster + Partners... \[images\]](#)- Architectural Record

[Russia approves \\$177M to renovate Pushkin museum: ...will be converted into a major complex with two exhibit areas, a concert hall, library, archive and underground parking lot. It is expected to quadruple in size. -- Foster + Partners- CBC \(Canada\)](#)

[A rough ride for the new kids on the block: The parishioners may not like it, but all above-ground parking lots in downtown Toronto are doomed...the continuing controversy at St. Michael's...college and the condo complex will have one thing in common...they comprise a record of architectural ideas in modern times. By John Bentley-Mays -- Peter Clewes/architectsAlliance \[image\]- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

[Interior design isn't a ditty discipline: Shows like Changing Rooms have given it a bad reputation, but 'architecture from the inside' can make all the difference to an architect's dreams...Bereft of a stirring interior, architecture's beauty can be just skin deep. -- Lawrence Murray Dixon \(1936\): Le Corbusier, Charlotte Perriand; Kelly Wearstler \[links\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Cooper-Hewitt National Design Awards announced -- Tom Kundig/Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects; Rockwell Group; Olin Partnership; Michael Bierut/Pentagram; Antenna Design \[links to images\]- Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum](#)

[Brutal, honest youth centre and a house bordering on bling took top Architecture Association of Ireland \(AAI\) Awards this year. By Frank McDonald -- Hassett Ducatez Architects; Boyd Cody; Architecture53seven; A2 Architects; ABK Architects; Paul Dillon Architects; O'Donnell + Tuomey; Murray O'Laire; De Paor Architects; Niall McLaughlin; Architecture Republic; GKMP Architects/OMP; Donaghy & Dimond- Irish Times](#)

[2008 Governor-General's Medals in Architecture: recognize outstanding achievement in recently built projects by Canadian architects. -- architectsAlliance/Behnisch Architekten; Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden; Le Groupe Arcop; Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg \(KPMB\)/Goldsmith Borgal; Ian MacDonald; Moriyama & Teshima/Griffiths Rankin Cook; Patkau Architects; LM Architectural Group; Saucier + Perrotte; Teeple Architects; Shore Tilbe & Irwin \[links to images\]- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada \(RAIC\)](#)

[12th Annual Webby Awards winning websites: AIA America's Favorite Architecture; Cooper-Hewitt's Design for the Other 90%; Transport for London; TED.com; School of Visual Arts; etc. \[links\]- Webby Awards](#)



[-- Construction start: UNStudio: Five Franklin Place, New York City](#)  
[-- Studio Granda: Hof Residence, Skakafjörður fjord, Iceland](#)

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